

REMARKS

Claims 17-32 are pending in this application. Claim 28 has been amended herewith. Claims 17-32 are subject to a restriction requirement. Essentially, the Examiner asserts that five distinct inventions are being claimed in the present application. The Examiner has grouped these inventions as follows:

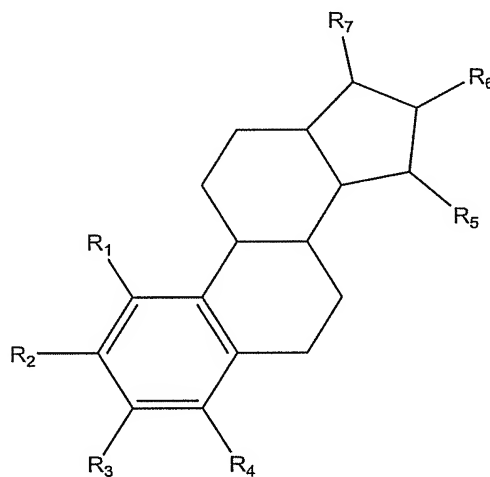
Group I, claims 17, 21-23 and 25-27 are drawn to a cosmetic method of treating human skin by delivering an estrogenic component to said skin, the method comprising applying to the skin a composition according to claim 31.

Group II, claim 28 is drawn to a method of treating or preventing vaginal dryness comprising applying to the vaginal epithelium a composition according to claim 31.

Group III, claim 29 is drawn to a method of promoting wound healing comprising applying to the wounded tissue or to tissue in the vicinity of the wound a composition according to claim 31.

Group IV, claim 30 is drawn to a method of treating or preventing acne comprising applying to the skin affected by acne or that is at risk of being affected by acne a composition according to claim 31.

Group V, claims 18-20, 24 and 31-32 are drawn to a skin care composition for topical administration containing a cosmetically acceptable vehicle and at least 5 $\mu\text{g/g}$ of an estrogenic component selected from the group consisting of substances represented by the following formula:

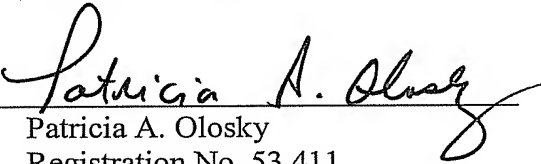


Application No. 10/517,509
Paper Dated: January 22, 2008
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of December 19, 2007
Attorney Docket No. 0470-045922

Independent claim 28 from Group II, has been amended herewith to explicitly embrace the composition of the present invention. As such, Applicants elect amended independent claim 28 from Group II for initial examination.

Applicants reserve their right to file divisional application(s) or take such other appropriate measures as they deem necessary to protect the inventions lying within Groups I and III-V.

Respectfully submitted,
THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By 
Patricia A. Olosky
Registration No. 53,411
Attorney for Applicants
436 Seventh Avenue
700 Koppers Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Telephone: (412) 471-8815
Facsimile: (412) 471-4094
E-mail: webblaw@webblaw.com